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†AM-REAGAN;500
†REAGAN AND BUSH BRIEFED ON MIDEAST
†BY TOM RAUM
†ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER
MIDDLEBURG, VA. (AP) - CARTER ADMINISTRATION INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS GAVE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE RONALD REAGAN AND RUNNING MATE GEORGE BUSH A BRIEFING SATURDAY ON THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ.

BUSH CALLED THE DISCUSSION ''PURE INTELLIGENCE'' AND SAID THAT NEITHER HE NOR REAGAN INTENDED TO USE THE INFORMATION ''AS AMMUNITION TO CRITICIZE PRESIDENT CARTER.''

CIA DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER AND OTHER TOP INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS SPENT MORE THAN TWO HOURS WITH THE GOP CANDIDATES AT REAGAN'S RENTED ESTATE IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

BUSH, WHO HEADED THE CIA HIMSELF DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD, SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE INFORMATION THAT WAS RECEIVED AT THE PRIVATE BRIEFING. BUT BUSH ALSO SAID IT DID NOT CHANGE HIS GENERAL VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST NOR WOULD IT CAUSE HIM TO STOP CRITICIZING CARTER'S GENERAL HANDLING OF FOREIGN POLICY OVER THE LAST 3½ YEARS.

''I FEEL BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE WORLD. I CAN'T TELL YOU I FEEL MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT IT,'' SAID BUSH, WHO SPOKE TO REPORTERS WAITING OUTSIDE.

THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SAID HE AND REAGAN ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE U.S. HOSTAGES IN IRAN BUT THERE WAS LITTLE DICUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT.

REAGAN DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE BRIEFING WITH REPORTERS, ALTHOUGH AS HE WALKED BUSH TO A HELICOPTER, REAGAN CHARACTERIZED THE SESSION AS ''MOST INTERESING.''

''WE'RE JUST GETTING INFORMATION WE DION'T HAVE BEFORE,'' HE SAID.

WHILE BUSH GENERALLY PRAISED THE QUALITY OF THE INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER, AN OCCASIONAL REAGAN FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER, QUESTIONED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BRIEFING IN LIGHT OF WHAT HE SUGGESTED WAS THE POOR STATE OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE.

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''THE VALUE OF THE BRIEFING CAN OBVIOUSLY BE NO BETTER THAN OUR OVERALL INTELLIGENCE;'' KISSINGER SAID. ''BUT SINCE THAT'S THE BEST INFORMATION THAT'S AVAILABLE TO OUR SENIOR OFFICIALS; THAT'S THE BEST WE CAN DO.''

KISSINGER DID NOT ATTEND THE CIA BRIEFING; BUT CONFERRED WITH REAGAN AND BUSH EARLIER IN THE DAY IN A SESSION THAT ALSO INCLUDED RETIRED GEN. ALEXANDER HAIG; FORMER COMMANDER OF NATO; AND ADM. THOMAS MOORER; FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

SAYING ''WE OBVOUSLY HAVE AN INTELLIGENCE PROBLEM;'' KISSINGER SUGGESTED THE CIA DID NOT EVEN KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT AN IRAQI ATTACK ON IRAN WAS IMMINENT.

REAGAN HAS SUGGESTED IN THE PAST THE WAR WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED HAD THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DONE MORE TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LATE SHAH MOHAMMAD REZA PAHLAVI; WHO WAS OVERTHROWN IN THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION OF EARLY 1979.

KISSINGER SAID THE BRIEFING WOULD BE USEFUL IN HELPING REAGAN ''TO KNOW WHICH AREAS OF SENSITIVITY HE SHOULD AVOID IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND IT WILL KEEP HIM FROM MAKING AN INADVERTENT MISTAKE.''

FOR BUSH; THE SESSION MAY HAVE BROUGHT BACK RECOLLECTIONS OF A SIMILAR BRIEFING FOUR YEARS AGO. IT WAS THE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING THAT BUSH; THEN THE CIA DIRECTOR; GAVE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JIMMY CARTER.

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